

Justice, Peace and Life

January 2024



Protecting Preborn Babies

During the month of January, we continue to commemorate the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision which led to the deaths of tens of millions of children in utero. Even though we are in a new era, an estimated 960,000 babies were aborted in the United States during the first year after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022. Learn how Catholics are protecting preborn children through the parish-based effort called [Walking with Moms in Need](#) at this [video](#) link.

Nine Days for Life!

From January 16 through January 24, join Catholics around the U.S. in praying this beautiful, annual novena for the protection of life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message.

Go to 9Daysforlife.com for more information. You can find a pdf of the novena at [this link](#).




MARCH FOR LIFE
PILGRIMAGE
WASHINGTON D.C.

**On January 19,
join the annual
March for Life
in Washington DC**

Buses leave from Webster the evening of January 18.

Visit march4life.gmsander.info

or contact Gerry Sander at 585.503.3256 or

webstercommitteeoflife@gmail.com to register

JANUARY

POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH



January is Poverty Awareness Month, a good way to start off the new year aiming to increase our knowledge, empathy and advocacy. One shocking fact to learn is this: the child poverty rate in the United States more than doubled from 2021 to 2022. It's the largest year-to-year spike on record. That meant an **additional 5.2 million children lived in poverty**, according to the latest Census update.

What happened? One of the biggest causes is that a 2021 federal program that provided financial assistance to low income families as part of pandemic relief was ended in 2022. Congress had temporarily expanded the [Child Tax Credit](#), as part of the American Rescue Plan. When it expired in 2022, low income families lost that level of support that had brought them out of poverty for a time.

Read about Catholic advocacy on reinstating Child Tax Credit [here](#) and other anti-poverty policies [here](#).

Access the **2024 Poverty Awareness Month** [daily reflections](#) and learn more about the amazing work that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is doing to address the root causes of poverty.

Learn about the connection between poverty and abortion in this [essay](#).

Urge Congress to Oppose Harmful Changes to Immigration Law as a Condition for Supplemental Funding

From the Justice for Immigrants campaign:

In recent days, a handful of senators have been negotiating behind closed doors to reach an agreement on potential changes to U.S. immigration law that could be attached to an emergency appropriations bill focused on international aid.

Proposals reportedly being discussed in the context of these negotiations include curtailing due process through rapid expulsions and nationwide expedited removal, mandating harmful and excessive detention, and making it even more difficult to attain asylum through heightened legal standards.

It's already terribly difficult for people fleeing dangerous conditions in their home countries to be win their asylum cases. We should not be slamming the door to our sisters and brothers.

Please speak out by contacting your member of Congress via this [link](#).



"Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognized in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources"

Pope Francis



KENNETH SMITH

First nitrogen hypoxia execution in Alabama scheduled.

1/26/24 | 6PM CT

bit.ly/KennethSmithAL

California Dept. of Corrections

Gas Chamber Execution this Month

From Death Penalty Action:

Kenneth Smith is scheduled for [execution](#) in Alabama on January 25, 2024 for the 1988 murder of Elizabeth Sennett.

On November 17, 2022, the state of Alabama FAILED in its attempted lethal injection execution of Kenneth Smith, poking him and cutting him for hours before sending him back to his cell alive. This left him severely physically scarred and deeply traumatized. Now they will try again, this time using a never-before-tried experimental form of the gas chamber, forcing him to wear an airtight mask so that they can suffocate him with what they call nitrogen hypoxia.

Speak out against this execution at this [link](#) and find other advocacy efforts on capital punishment [here](#).

2024: Status of the death penalty throughout the U.S. Thursday January 11, 2:00-3:00pm

Join the national Catholic anti-death penalty organization Catholic Mobilizing Network for an informative webinar on the landscape of the death penalty throughout the nation. Campaigns to end the death penalty in Ohio and Pennsylvania are underway! If you know people in those states, please invite them to participate too. Register at this [link](#).

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